PLAINDEALING

OR

A Second Dialogue between

Humphrey and Roger,

As they were returning home from Choosing Knights of the Sheir to Sit in *PARLIAMENT*.

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Roger. WEll overtook Neighbour, I see you are not a man of your word; did not you promise me when we last met, that you would Vote for our old Members that sat in the last Parliament, to be Knights of the Shire, to sit in the *Parliament* at *Oxford*?

Humphery. *I thought to do so, but by my brown Cow, I have been over-perswaded to the contrary by my Landlord and his Chaplin Mr.* Tantivie, *and a pestilent fine man, I think they said he was a Courtier, that lay at my Landlords house, and what with Arguments and Wine, they drew aside my heart, and made me Vote against my Conscience.*

Rog. 'Twas ill done neighbour *Numps*, but all their Artifices would not do, we have carried it by some hundreds, for our old Members, that stood so bravely for their Country.

Hump. *I am glad on't with all my heart, for to tell you truly, tho' my Landlord had my voice, the old Members had my heart, and i'le never do so again.*

Rog. I hear most of the Counties in *England* are of the same mind, and all the Burgess-Towns, Cities, and Corporations; but what arguments could they use to alter thy mind?

Hump. *First I say, They made me continually drunk, and then my Landlord used me so very civilly, and gave me so many good words, and fine promises, what a kind Landlord he would be, that I forgot all your Instructions; and methought he had invincible Arguments to perswade me.*

Rog. What were they?

Hump. *Nay, I have forgot them, but I thought no Counsellour at Law nor any Bishop, could have contradicted them: I now remember one Argument that took with me; you know I was ever for the King, and he told me the King did not love the Old Parliament-men, and therefore I should not Vote for them: But I being bold, asked him how he knew that?*

Rog. What said he then?

Hump. *Why he laid me as flat as a Flounder, that is, he fully convinc'd me, for, said he, if the King had lov'd them, he would not so soon have Dissolv'd them; I think that was demonstrable.*

Rog. 'Tis no matter tho' the King did not love them, they lov'd you and your Country, and you should so far have lov'd your self, as not to have betray'd your own Interest. What said the Courtier?

Hump. *Faith he said not much to me, but I suppose he had said enough to my* Landlord.

Rog. And was this all your Landlord said to you? had you nothing to say for your self? you spake rationally the last time we were together.

Hump. *Nay, I was forward enough to speak I'le assure you; And I told them, I was sure our old Members would be for the rooting up of Popery, and would stand stiffly against* Arbitrary *Government.*

Rog. What said they then?

Hump. *My Landlord laugh'd at me, and told me I had been among the* Presbyterian *Whiggs, and bid me have a care of being cheated into Rebellion, by those two words,* Popery *and* Arbitrary Government: *Then he shewed me a printed paper, I think he called it,* The Mistris of Iniquity, *which shew'd as plain as the Nose on my face, that in 41, they did as we do just now, and that by that means they brought one K. to the Block, and so they would now do by our present Soveraign; God bless him.*

Rog. Alas! alas! and that frighted you, did it?

Hump. *Frighted me, ay marry did it, & I think 'twould affright any honest Man; you know I was always a Kings-man, and I would be taught to joyn with those, or give my Vote for such, who under the notion of crying against Popery and Arbitrary Government, would pull down the King and the Bishops, and set up a Common-wealth again.*

Rog. Well *Nump*, I believe thee to be an honest Man, and there be many in this Land of thy condition, that are not of any great reach in pollicies and tricks of State-Mountibanks, and so may be easily perswaded upon false grounds, to betray your Country, your liberties, lives, and Religion.

Hump. *Nay, that was not all, he then read another printed Paper, with an hard name, I think it was* Hercules Rideing, *or something of* Jest and Earnest, *which he laught heartily at, and me thought there were some things called* Querks, *which made a gingling and noise in my Ears, that I thought there was some Spell in it, for it seemed to joyn with Mrs.* Iniquity, *to make all the* Presbyterians *Traytors, and most of the people of* England *mad and factious.*

Rog. There is as much heed to be given to those Pamphlets, as to the gingling of Morrice-bells: They are hyred to set the people together by the ears, and are *Papists* in Masquerade; things set up to affright the people out of their senses, with the buy-leave of 41; Wise Men see thorow them, Honest men are not affrighted at them, & Fools and Knaves onely are led aside by them.

Hump. *But don't we do now as formerly, before the last Wars? don't we run just in the same steps as they did? who caused all the late bloody doings? as those Pamphlets would make us believe?*

Rog. I cannot tell what they mean by Roads and High-ways: pray *Hodg*, we are now rideing in the High-road to the next Market-Town; before the last Assizes, in this very Road 3 or 4 Highway-men rode in it too, and rob'd several persons, & committed many villanous Murthers, and were at last caught and Hang'd for it; now therefore, because we are Rideing in the same High-way, must we Honest men be accounted Thieves, Robbers, and Murtherers, & all other who travel this Road? that's an hard case.

Hump. *You say right Neighbour* Hodg, *tho' the Gallows stands in the High-way, we need not run our Heads against it, nor do any thing to deserve it.*

Rog.

Rog. But to speak plain to your Capacity neighbor, if the Court be corrupt, and that those who should do justice and maintain truth, who should only seek the good of the King & his Kingdom, (for the ones good is inseparably the others) and should Act According to Laws; do notwithstanding all things quite contrary, and by Unjust and Undue, Unlawful, & Sinister ways & means, seek to oppress and enslave the people, and to set up Arbitrary Government, and the Religion of Rome, to maintain their own Greatness and Interests; shall not the People who feel the Burthen and groan under the Oppression, and having no other way of Redress but a Parliament, desire and Petition for one, and cry out against such Illegal and Unjust Proceedings, but presently they must be termed by these Fellows; Seditious, Factious, and such as would Dethrone the King, and pull down the Bishops? Then all men must hereafter be afraid to Speak, to Vote, or to Petition, against Grievances, lest they should be termed Rebels, Villains, and Traytors: and to run the same Rode of *Forty One*.

Humph. *Indeed Neighbour 'tis hard, not to wince when the Beast is hurt; yet I have basted my Horse for doing it.*

Rog. Such Asses would these Fellows have English men to be; still to be subject to their Tyrannical Cudgels: but God be thanked, the Nation generally are of another mind, and what ever these Trumpets of 41, sound in the ears of the vulgar, there is no such complection in the Affairs now on foot, as in those of 41, excepting what lies on their part; and in that also I think there is this disparity, that we have a more evident cause of complaint, our Grievances being more than ever, and especially by that of the first Magnitude, the apprehension of a Popish Successor.

Hump. *Nay, I had that up too, and then Mr.* Tantivy *took me in hand as to that, and made it a clear case, that 'twas no better than down-right Treason, to deprive the D. of the Crown, or to put a Barr in the way of his Succession: nay, he used the Presbyterians old Text to me, as I heard they made use of it in 41, to a quite contrary sense,* Curse Meroz, *and sufficiently ban'd all such as Enemies to the Church of* England, *as was against his succession, whatever religion he's of.*

Rog. I wonder that Mr. *Tantivy* expects to get by it, to be made a Prior or an Abbot: does he imagine a *Popish Successor* will not bring in his *own* Religion? since he can't be such a fool: or is he so very fearful of the dissenting *Protestants*, that he will adventure the setting up of the *Mass*, rather than shake hands with a *Presbyterian?* and yet we see many of the Clergy, and those of the leading Cards, of Mr. *Tantivy*'s opinion: which is beyond my apprehension.

Hump. *I do believe Mr.* Tantivy *will never burn for his religion, that's my opinion, but I assure you, he fears no more the coming in of* popery, *than I do going to Bed.*

Rog. Some men are wilfully blind, & such may be the first that would repent the bringing in such a Successor, as the Men of *Norfolk*, who set up Queen *Mary*, were the first that had the honour to be her Martyrs.

Hump. *I am sufficiently convinc'd, that a Popish K. of* Engl. *will not be very acceptable, and that we should be in danger of turning Papists and Idolaters, or of being burnt for Heretics: I don't much care to have my name in a New Book of Martyrs, with my picture encompassed with Faggots and Flames, I am affrighted at the thoughts of it.*

Rog. And yet you put it to the venture, in voting for one you know not, one set up on purpose by interest, to put by our *good & trusty* old *Members*.

Hump. *I confess I deserve to be half-hang'd; but good Neighbour, what is this Arbitrary Government so often spoke of? my Landlord ask'd me what it was, and in good faith I could not answer him, but Mr.* Tantivy *said, it was the Government of a proud, malipert, Arbitrary, Presbyterian Clergy-Man in every Parish, and that the people are setting up again.*

Rog. So all the *Tantivies* in *England* interpret it, but Neighbour, I'le tell you what I mean by it in a Word, It is a Government of the Prince or Monarch, by his own will, without circumscription of Laws, & then God-buye to all the peoples priviledges and properties, and our long-kept Liberties, so dear to all true *English-men*, & then you may be made the princes slaves, to bear the burthens of his *Janizaries*, and not dare to complain, not suffer'd to call any thing your own, to pay Taxes, Impositions, Gabells, Excise, at your Princes pleasure, and not by your own consent: The Prophet *Samuel* very lively describes such an Arbitrary King, to the *Israelites*, in the 8*th*. *Cap.* of the first Book of *Samuel*. He is such a one that will take your Sons to be his Servants, to attend on his Chariots and his Coaches, and to be his Foot-men and Lacquies, whether you will or no; your daughters to be his Cooks and Drudges. He will take your Fields, your Corn, your Houses, and all you have at his pleasure; and to satisfie the rapacious humour of his Courtiers and Concubines: He will feed his Servants with your bread, and cloath them by your labour and toyl, what you sweat for they shall enjoy. He will rule you with an Army, with Captains of thousands, of hundred and fifties, and you shall not dare to complain of Oppression, and this Neighbour, is the true Character of *Arbitrary Government*.

Hump. *O Neighbour, my heart trembles! what a Rogue was I to Vote at Random, when our* all *lies at stake: I did not think we had put such a Trust into the hands of our Parliament-men; I thought, alas! as many do, that we chose only for Form-sake, and that they were only called to Parliament to give the King money, and to do what he would have them; and we have paid so many Taxes already, and given so much money, that I wished in my heart there would be no more Parliaments in my days.*

Rog. You see you were mistaken, 'tis the greatest trust that can be put into the hands of men, when we send to the Parliament our Representatives, for we entrust them with our Religion, Lives, Liberties, and Property, all we have; for they may preserve them to us, or give them from us, and therefore Neighbour, we ought to be careful in whom we put this great trust, and not to be perswaded by our Landlord, or by any flattering Courtier or Horn-winding Tantivie of them all, to choose those whom we know not, and are not well assured of, and that we dare not Confide in.

Hump. *I hope generally these who are now chosen to Sit at* Oxford, *are Men of sound Loyalty to their Prince, and of the Establish'd Religion of the Church of* England, *of honest Principles, and lovers of their Country.*

Rog. Such as fear not the Calumny of Pamphleting Whifflers, and will, if they may be permitted, heal our Breaches, maintain our Religion, and secure our Property, and priviledges: And God in Heaven bless them, and prosper their good Endeavours, and so Neighbour Good-night.

Hump. *And let all good people say* Amen: *Farewel.*

FINIS.

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